AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the caption on page 6, line 14, as follows:

~~DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION~~BRIEF SUMMARY

Please amend the paragraphs beginning at page 6, line 15, and continuing to page 8, line 9, as follows:

An object of the ~~invention~~ technology is to provide an electrophotographic photoreceptor using a non-contact type charging process excellent in wear resistance life and not causing injury and unevenness in density to the images to be formed for a long time by defining physical properties of the surface.

The ~~invention~~ technology provides an electrophotographic photoreceptor in which electrostatic latent images are formed by exposure of a surface charged in a non-contact manner with a light in accordance with image information, toner images are formed by development of the electrostatic latent images, and obstacles including a toner are removed from the surface after the toner images are transferred onto a transfer material, wherein

a creep value $C_{I\tau}$ is 2.70% or more and the Vickers hardness (HV) at the surface is 20 or more and 25 or less in a case where a maximum indenting load of 30 mN is loaded to the surface under a circumstance at a temperature of 25°C and at a relative humidity of 50%.

Further, the ~~invention~~ technology is characterized in that the creep value $C_{I\tau}$ is 3.00% or more.

In accordance with the ~~invention~~technology, surface physical properties of an electrophotographic photoreceptor used for electrophotographic image formation and charged by a non-contact type charging process are set such that the creep value $C_{I\tau}$ is

2.70% or more, preferably, 3.00% or more in a case where a maximum indenting load of 30 mN is loaded on the surface under a circumstance at a temperature of 25°C and at a relative humidity of 50% and a Vickers hardness (HV) at the surface is 20 or more and 25 or less. This can maintain the soft and flexibility of a film forming the surface layer of the electrophotographic photoreceptor and render the plasticity of the film into a suitable state which is neither excessively soft nor fragile. Accordingly, even during long time use where image formation of charging, exposure, development, transfer, cleaning and charge elimination is repeated, since the amount of film reduction is decreased and occurrence of injury to the film is decreased to keep the smoothness on the surface of the photoreceptor, occurrence of injury or unevenness in density to the formed images can be prevented.

Further, the ~~invention~~technology provides an image forming apparatus comprising:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 6 and continuing to page 9, line 13, as follows:

Further, the ~~invention~~ technology is characterized in that the creep value $C_{I\tau}$ in the electrophotographic photoreceptor is 3.00% or more.

In accordance with the ~~invention~~technology, since the electrophotographic photoreceptor excellent in the wear resistance life and scratch resistance is provided, an image forming apparatus not causing injury or unevenness in the density to the formed images is obtained.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 19, and continuing to page 10, line 10, as follows:

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary cross sectional view schematically showing the constitution of an electrophotographic photoreceptor ~~1~~ according to an example embodiment ~~of the invention~~;

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view for the arrangement schematically showing the constitution of an image forming apparatus ~~2~~ according to another example embodiment ~~of the invention~~ having the electrophotographic photoreceptor ~~1~~ shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3A and Fig. 3B are charts explaining a method of determining a creep value $C_{I\tau}$;

Fig. 4 is a view showing a relation between Vickers hardness HV and plastic deformation hardness Huplast;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary cross sectional view schematically showing the constitution of a photoreceptor 53 as a second example embodiment ~~of the invention~~; and

Please amend the caption on page 10, line 13, as follows:

~~Best Mode for Carrying out the Invention~~DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 14, and continuing to page 10, line 11, as follows:

Now referring to the drawings, preferred example embodiments ~~of the invention~~ are described below.

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary cross sectional view schematically showing the constitution of an electrophotographic photoreceptor 1 according to an example embodiment ~~of the invention~~, and Fig. 2 is a side elevational view for the arrangement schematically showing the constitution of an image forming apparatus 2 according to another example embodiment ~~of the invention~~ having the electrophotographic photoreceptor 1 shown in Fig 1.